

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Does the member thereby mean that the Government have no connection with the Department?

MR. E. G. SALTER : I should think the position is obvious.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Will the member understand that it is not so obvious because Government have started the Department and Government have control over the Department?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI : On a point of order, Sir. I must submit to the Chair that there was such an amount of latitude in putting supplementary questions on former occasions that rulings have been given that supplementary questions should be relevant specifically to the point raised in the question and secondly not more than one or two supplementary question should be allowed. Instead of that it has become a regular debating society here.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : On a point of order, Sir. Is it the duty of the honourable member to show that it is relevant, or of the President to show so.

PRESIDENT : It is the duty of the Advocate General to point out to the President whether it is relevant or not. As a matter of fact it is the duty of every honourable member whenever a question is irrelevant to bring the matter to the notice of the Chair, because the Chair might have noticed or might not have noticed it.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Will the verification report made by the Department be made available to the house.

PRESIDENT : That question does not arise.

Obviously the question that has been put is this. Whether any verification has been undertaken by Government of the accounts of the State Transport Department? The State Transport Department is a Government Department which is run on commercial lines. To this question the answer would be "no". Stock verification is done by the department annually.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : May we take it that the reply of the Director is not correct?

PRESIDENT : It is absolutely correct, because it is a commercial Department, and what I understand the Director of Transport to say is that no commercial department would have this stock verification done by a Government Department other than the Transport Department.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Now that it is a Government Department, is it not necessary that there should be stock verification done by Government.

Bonus to the employees of the State Transport Department.

148. * **MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI :** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by Government as bonus for distribution to the employees of the State Transport Department;

(b) the date of sanction and the date on which it was distributed;

(c) the principle on which the distribution was effected among the employees; and

(d) whether the non-pensionable staff was given the benefit of this bonus?

MR. E. G. SALTER: (a) 5 per cent of the net profit in each year.

(b) 13-5-1943. Distributed in Chingom after the Balance Sheet was approved by Government.

(c) The amount is distributed in the proportion of the total salary drawn by each employee during the year.

(d) Yes. The non-pensionable staff only are the participants in the distribution.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Are the pensionable staff of the Department participants of this bonus scheme.

MR. E. G. SALTER: No, Sir.

PRESIDENT: It was a definite rule made when the Department was started.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Director is a participant?

MR. E. G. SALTER: No, Sir.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE (*Muzatupuzha cum Devicolum*): May I know whether any other department gives bonus to its employees?

PRESIDENT: The question does not arise.

Rule Book for drivers and conductors in the State Transport Department.

149. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the rules contained in the Rule Book for drivers and conductors issued by the State Transport Department at the time of its inception are still in force; if not, the date on which they were cancelled or withdrawn?

MR. E. G. SALTER: The rules contained in the Rule Book are still in force subject to slight modifications made from time to time.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Has the Director taken any pains to see whether these rules are being followed by the conductors of the services run by the Transport Department?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Yes, Sir.

Opening of new Colleges.

150. *MR. K. A. MOHAMED (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any applications for permission to open new colleges in any part of the State?

MR. H. C. PAPWORTH (*Pro-Vice-Chancellor*): No.

Muslim girl students in the University Colleges.

151. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Muslim students in the University Colleges for Arts and Science?